

Hepatitis C Screening Guidelines and Archived Resource: SMDHU Post Exposure Management of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV Resource

Attention: Hospital Emergency Departments, Acute Care Infection Control Practitioners, Correctional Institutions, Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Walk-In clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Family Health Teams, Occupational Health Professionals, Country of Simcoe Paramedic Services, EMS Ontario – Muskoka, NSM LHIN

Date: June 28, 2018

Guideline: Hepatitis C Screening

Hepatitis C has been in the news recently with the release of recommendations by the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver endorsing cohort screening of baby boomers born between 1945 and 1975 (<http://www.cmaj.ca/content/190/22/E677>). These recommendations differ from those released last year by the Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care (CTFPHC) (<https://canadiantaskforce.ca/guidelines/published-guidelines/hepatitis-c/>), which recommended against screening of HCV in non-high risk adults.

Since the CTFPHC recommendations, there has been a move in Ontario towards funding treatment for all patients with Hepatitis C rather than only those with the later stages of liver disease. There is currently no organized provincial program for Hepatitis C screening.

We encourage health care providers to carefully read and consider the two sets of recommendations. Of particular note is the declared financial conflicts of interest (management of competing interests statement) in the recommendations by the Canadian Association for the Study of the Liver. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU), at this time, does not endorse one guideline over the other.

There is consensus that testing should continue in individuals with increased risk which includes those with high risk behaviours, potential exposure to Hepatitis C, and/or clinical findings suggestive of possible infection. Tools to help assess patients' risk for Hepatitis C are available from the Task Force (<https://canadiantaskforce.ca/tools-resources/hepatitis-c-2/>)

Archived Resource: SMDHU Post Exposure Management of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV Resource

The guidance document "[Post exposure management of Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV](http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/jfy-health-care-professionals/Post_Exposure_Management2013_08_09_Final.pdf?sfvrsn=0)" (http://www.simcoemuskokahealth.org/docs/default-source/jfy-health-care-professionals/Post_Exposure_Management2013_08_09_Final.pdf?sfvrsn=0) released by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's Clinical Service department is now archived. The report provided a five step framework developed by St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto (Pocket P.E.P. Reference), supporting health care providers in Simcoe Muskoka to assess and manage incidents of exposures (percutaneous, mucosal or non-intact skin) to blood and body fluids that are capable of transmitting hepatitis B, hepatitis C, or HIV. **Health care providers are now encouraged to refer to the St. Michael's Hospital (Toronto, Ontario) resource titled "[Pocket P.E.P.](http://www.stmichaelshospital.com/pdf/programs/pocket-pep.pdf)" at <http://www.stmichaelshospital.com/pdf/programs/pocket-pep.pdf>**



for recommendations on managing bloodborne exposures. Assessment and documentation forms from the SMDHU archived resource is still available on the Health Care Provider portal at www.SMDHU.org. These forms can be used along with the Pocket P.E.P

Each instance of a possible exposure to HBV, HCV or HIV must be assessed carefully and as quickly as possible by a clinician health care provider. If the family physician is unavailable the same day, this is best done in an urgent care/walk-in clinic setting or emergency department. Management of exposures may warrant treatment with post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for HBV and/or HIV. Note that HIV PEP should be started as soon as possible, ideally within two hours of the exposure.

SMDHU staff on the Sexual Health team are available to respond to questions from health care providers seeking recommendations for management of exposures. The health unit also provides counseling and recommendations for follow-up to individuals who have had an exposure that could result in the transmission of HBV, HCV or HIV.

If you have any questions or require a consultation, please contact the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Sexual Health team at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 Ext. 8376. For after hours, please call 1-888-225-7851.